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arrest of a leader is bound to have some kind of reaction among the followers. It may be conceded that all crowds do not resort to violence simply because one of their leaders is arrested and that such a turn was not a necessary and inevitable consequence in respect of this particular crowd also. But having regard to the antecedents of the members of the Anamalais Plantation Workers' Union, it should have been obvious that there was a fair degree of probability of this crowd becoming unruly and violent as a result of the arrest of one of its leaders. Ordinary prudence should have suggested to the Sub-Inspector the inadvisability of taking a step which involved a risk, however remote, of the crowd becoming violent; for the police force at his disposal was not sufficient to deal with such a contingency by any means short of opening fire. Nor can it be said that the offence committed by Abraham Lincoln was so serious as to call for immediate arrest irrespective of consequences. After considering all aspects of the matter, I consider that while the Sub-Inspector 's action cannot be definitely characterised as tactless, he was somewhat thoughtless and erred in his judgment when he questioned and arrested Abraham Lincoln at the particular juncture when the meeting of the Communist Union was about to commence.

20th February 1957. T. N. S. RAGHAVAN.

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 442 asked by Sri A. R. Marimuthu at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 28th March 1958, page 107 supra.]

Short note on the assignment policy of the Government.

1. Lands at the disposal of Government is granted either by assignment or by alienation. Assignment is resorted to where the grantee is either a private body, institution or a person.

2. Non-valuable lands are assigned only to landless and poor persons who are likely to engage themselves in direct cultivation. Due regard is paid to the special claims of ex-tappers thrown out of employment owing to the Prohibition policy of the Government. The maximum extent of land that may be assigned to a person shall be that which together with all the land if any owned by him makes a total extent equivalent to 5 acres of *dry* land; 2 acres of dry land being treated as equivalent to one acre of wet. The land is assigned free of cost, but the value of trees, wells, etc., is collected. Certain important conditions subject to which the assignment is made are—

(1) The land should be brought under cultivation within three years from the date of assignment.

(2) It should not be sold or alienated for a period of ten years.

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(3) The land should be cultivated by the assignee himself or by members of his family or by hired labour.

Lands in the proximity of towns should ordinarily be sold in public auction. Other valuable lands are sold in public auction or at market rate, whichever is advantageous to the Government.

Valuable lands other than those in the proximity of towns can be assigned to the landless and poor on collection of market value at once or in easy instalments. Pattas will be issued only after the entire land value is collected. If the assignee is a sivoijamadar who has spent considerable amount of money and labour on the land, the market value is as far as possible fixed at the value of land prior to its improvement.

All types of valuable lands can also be assigned to deserving landless and poor persons free of cost subject to the condition that the possession of the land is not transferred to any outsider, i.e., to any one who is not the legal heir of the assignee.

In villages where considerable extents of lands are available, the Revenue Divisional Officers should, and in all other cases, may, set apart a specific area for assignment to the Harijans. Non-valuable lands so reserved are assigned to Harijans free of cost. In respect of valuable lands so reserved, market value is collected. The assignment is made subject to the conditions that the land should not be alienated at all for ten years, that thereafter the lands can be alienated only to another Harijan, and that there should be no default in the payment of land revenue.

Normally, communal land (i.e., poromboke) is not assigned. Grazing ground poramboke is not assigned unless sufficient grazing ground is available to serve the needs of cattle at the rate of one acre of pasture per head of cattle. Tank bed lands are not assigned without consulting the technical authority.

Lands in the vicinity of reserved forests up to a margin of 2 to 3 chains, margins of canals, channels, streams, etc. (1 chain on either side in the case of major canals, etc., and 30 links in the case of minor canals) are not to be assigned. Special rules have been framed for assigning lands containing topes or valuable trees or lands within cantonment limits, lands reserved under section 26 of the Forest Act, lands within port limits or in the vicinity of railway stations or ærodromes or landing grounds or land containing minerals, quarries, etc., or padugai land.

Under the assignment policy of the Government as enunciated in 1949, political sufferers were given first preference in the matter of assignment of land. The rules then in force provided for the assignment of 10 acres of dry land or 5 acres of wet land to each political sufferer whether he was a landless poor person or not. The assignment was free of land value but subject to special conditions. The date 31st March 1948 was fixed as the last date for receipt of applications from political sufferers for grant of land under this scheme. The scheme referred to above was discontinued

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in 1952. In the following cases the assignment already ordered were not interfered with viz., (1) where possession of land was given and patta issued; and (2) where possession was not given but patta was issued. To meet cases of individual hardship arising out of the discontinuance of the scheme for grant of lands to political sufferers, certain provisions were also made in respect of provisional assignments already made. No attempt shall be accepted to raise the extent of land already assigned to a political sufferer to make up any deficiency. But extents already assigned to political sufferers will be valid up to the maximum in force at the time of assignment. The present position in regard to assignment of lands to political sufferers is they are now eligible for assignment of lands free of cost only if they are also landless and poor persons and are likely to engage themselves in direct cultivation. Even then, they shall not be entitled to any preference over other landless poor persons. There is no objection however to the application submitted by a political sufferer when the old scheme was in force, being treated as an application from a landless and poor person for purposes of the assignment but the question of assignment in such cases should be taken up *de novo* after considering the claims of other landless poor persons and after observing all the usual formalities. In 1949, when the Government decided to assign lands to political sufferers, one of the conditions imposed was that the allottees should not sell or otherwise alienate such lands for a period of ten years, on pain of cancellation of assignment. Some political sufferers, who were assigned lands, represented that this condition was causing hardship to them. The Government have therefore re-examined the question recently and have passed orders cancelling the restriction on the alienation of lands assigned to political sufferers.

Under the assignment policy of Government as enunciated in 1949, ex-servicemen who did not possess more than 5 acres of wet land or more than 10 acres of dry land were eligible for cost-free assignment of that extent of land which together with the land already owned by them made up a total extent of 5 acres wet or 10 acres dry, in each case. The assignment was subject to the same terms and conditions as those which applied to political sufferers. Families of ex-servicemen who died while in active service were also eligible for assignment of land under this scheme. The scheme referred to above was discontinued in 1952, and 1st July 1952 was prescribed as the last date for receipt of applications from ex-servicemen. Ex-servicemen who submitted their applications for assignment of lands under the old scheme, before the expiry of the time-limit referred to above and who own less than 5 acres but not less than 2½ acres of wet land, or less than 10 acres, but not less than 5 acres of dry land, were eligible for assignment of *non-valuable* lands free of cost as under the old scheme whether they were prepared to take to direct cultivation or not. But their claims were considered only next in preference to landless poor persons.

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Ex-servicemen who besides being poor own less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of wet land or 5 acres of dry land and who were prepared to take to direct cultivation, were landless poor persons. They were, therefore, besides being eligible for assignment of non-valuable lands free of cost as under the old scheme had the benefit of the concession provided in the matter of assignment of *valuable* lands to landless and poor persons. The present position in regard to assignment of lands to ex-servicemen is, ex-servicemen who have applied for assignment of lands after the expiry of the time-limit specified above or who may apply for assignment thereafter, shall be eligible for assignment of lands only if they are landless and poor persons who are likely to engage themselves in direct cultivation. Even then, they shall not be entitled to any preference over other landless poor persons. There is no objection to the application submitted by an ex-serviceman under the old scheme being treated as an application from a landless poor person; but, the question of assignment shall be taken up *de novo* after considering the claims of other landless and poor persons and after observing the usual formalities.

Previously the District Collectors were alone competent to assign both valuable and non-valuable lands. On the recommendation of the District Revenue Administration Enquiry Committee the Government have passed orders empowering the Revenue Divisional Officers to assign valuable lands and empowering Tahsildars to assign non-valuable lands, with a view to relieving Collectors of routine work so that they can devote better attention to more inmportant items of work. On the recommendation of the Board of Revenue, the Government have passed orders in February 1956 empowering the Independent Deputy Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars employed specially for assignment work, and Special Assignment Tahsildars to assign non-valuable lands. The Government have also been sanctioning special staff for assignment work in the several districts to deal promptly with the increasing number of applications received from landless poor persons. With a view to watching the progress of assignment work in the several districts the Board of Revenue gets a monthly report from the Collectors and reviews the progress.